



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**GRADUATES ENTERING JOB MARKET AND CLOSE OF SCHOOL YEAR  
CONTRIBUTE TO JUNE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 4.4 PERCENT**

**HONOLULU-** The State of Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations announced today that the statewide unemployment rate in June was 4.4 percent, an expected rise from 3.8 percent in May. In June 2002, Hawaii's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. Typically, the unemployment rate increases over-the-month from May to June, mostly due to the conclusion of the academic year, which results in a surge of new entrants into the labor force and also the temporary loss of jobs in public and private education. In comparison, the national unemployment rate followed a similar trend, increasing from 5.8 percent in May to 6.5 percent in June. Since December 2002, Hawaii's unemployment rate has been at least two percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate.

"In light of the continued relatively higher unemployment rate at the national level, Hawaii's economy has been resilient, resulting in

an unemployment rate lower than the national average," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

In June, Hawaii's total civilian labor force stood at 605,400, and was comprised of 579,000 employed and 26,500 unemployed.

In another measure of employment, total nonagricultural jobs grew by 400 jobs in June over May. The entire private sector added 1,800 jobs. Specifically, the leisure and hospitality sector, composed primarily of recreation, accommodation, and food services industries, added 900 jobs. Retail trade increased by 700 jobs. Employment growth at temporary help firms contributed to an increase of 500 jobs in professional and business services.

Most of the job losses for June were the result of loss of seasonal jobs. Private education declined by 700 jobs. Employment in public education decreased by 1,700 jobs, primarily due to staffing cuts in the University of Hawaii system and the Department of Education.

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July 17, 2003

TO: Media Contacts

FROM: James P. Hardway, Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Numbers

As many of you have noticed, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has begun releasing additional information with our monthly unemployment press release. This information is designed to allow you to specifically see which industries within the state have either lost jobs or added them.

Due to numerous requests from the media, the department has also decided to make available the "seasonally adjusted" unemployment rate as an addendum to the release. The department utilizes the "unadjusted" unemployment rate in the press release to identify the specific industries that contract or grow on a monthly basis. The "seasonally adjusted" UI rate does not allow the department to track these industry numbers, which is why it is not reflected in the actual press release itself.

If there is any other information or assistance that we can provide you, please call me at 586-8845, or e-mail me at [jhardway@hawaii.gov](mailto:jhardway@hawaii.gov).

Mahalo.

## **SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED HAWAII AND NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

<b>Month/Yr</b>	<b>SA HAWAII UR</b>		<b>SA U.S. UR</b>		<b>difference (Hawaii - U.S.)</b>		
January-02	4.9		5.6		-0.7		
February-02	4.7		5.6		-0.9		
March-02	4.6		5.7		-1.1		
April-02	4.4		5.9		-1.5		
May-02	4.3		5.8		-1.5		
June-02	4.1		5.8		-1.7		
July-02	4.1		5.8		-1.7		
August-02	4.0		5.8		-1.8		
September-02	4.0		5.7		-1.7		
October-02	3.9		5.8		-1.9		
November-02	3.9		5.9		-2.0		
December-02	3.9		6.0		-2.1		
January-03	3.6		5.7		-2.1		
February-03	3.0		5.8		-2.8		
March-03	3.7		5.8		-2.1		
April-03	3.8		6.0		-2.2		
May-03	3.9		6.1		-2.2		
June-03	4.1		6.4		-2.3		